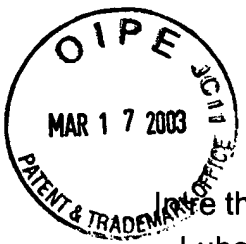


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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Lubock et al.

) Examiner: C. A. Marmor II

) Group Art Unit: 3736

For: **DILATION DEVICES AND
METHODS FOR REMOVING
TISSUE SPECIMENS**

) Customer No.: 23422

Serial No.: 09/916,937

Filed: July 27, 2001

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF
SPECIES REQUIREMENTS**

Docket No.: 9619.1250

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited in the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage addressed to
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By: [Signature]

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

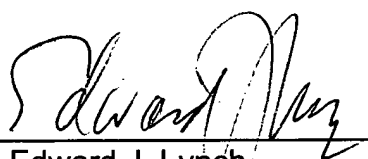
In the Office Action mailed February 25, 2003, in the above-referenced
application, the Examiner put forth an election requirement between the following
species of the claimed invention:

- a. Species I directed to Figures 1A-1D, 3A and 3B.
- b. Species II directed to Figures 2A-2G and 4A-4C.
- c. Species III directed to Figures 5A-6B.
- d. Species IV directed to Figures 7A-7B.
- e. Species V directed to Figure 8A.
- f. Species VI directed to Figure 8B.
- g. Species VII directed to Figure 8C.

In response to this election requirement, applicants hereby elect the prosecute species I shown in Figs. 1A-1D, 3A and 3B. Claims 1-4, 18, 19, 20, 27, 31 and 40 read on the elected species.

Applicants submit that claims 1-44 are directed to patentable subject matter and respectfully request examination on the merits and an early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Edward J. Lynch
Registration No. 24,422
Attorney for Applicants

COUDERT BROTHERS LLP
600 Beach Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, California 94109
Telephone: (415) 409-2900
Facsimile: (415) 409-7400
Direct Dial: (415) 351-5708